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state...through the state institutions, that's a philosophical difference. The reason we went the way we did is because a lot of people from Nebraska, particularly from maybe the sparser populated areas of the state, want to go back to their homes, or go back to the region, or stay in the state. So by recruiting people who go to school here, we felt, the people who supported this bill and put it together,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...felt that that was a good recruitment tool. We would have more students that way that were going to school in the state, were familiar with the state, and wanted to live here, to be able to encourage them to stay here and not leave for higher salaries in other places, if we could do something to kind of, in the first couple of years of teaching, help them over the hump. And that's why the bill was put in this...the way it was. It isn't meant to take away from longtime teachers who need salary increases. It wasn't meant to replace in any way a strategy dealing with salaries. This is just one tool in the tool box to encourage people who have high grade point averages, the people that we want, in our best teacher training institutions, to come and stay in various parts of the state as teachers. And we also know that once people stay in a community for a few years, they're more likely to stay.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Schimek, on AM1663.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the Chambers amendment, not because I'm opposed to this legislation that we passed last year, not because I'm opposed to loan forgiveness programs in general. I think that this has been an area in which we have developed policy in attracting medical professionals to rural areas, and a host of other programs. So I think it's a really good idea.